

EMPLOYEE TRAINING CLEANING



... OF MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT, BUILDING EXTERIORS,
DUMPSTERS, AND THE DISPOSAL OF ASSOCIATED WASTE
AND WASTEWATER

YOU HELP PROTECT OUR WATER

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THE PROBLEM

- Cleaning of maintenance equipment, dumpsters and building exteriors in areas where wash water can flow onto impervious surfaces and have the potential to pollute our lakes and rivers.
- Wash water might contain nutrients, metals, suspended solids, and hydrocarbons can easily end up in our lakes and rivers if the wash water makes its way to a storm drain or ditch.



Photo from <http://www.passaicriverbasin.com/prb5environment.html>

LOW-COST SOLUTIONS

- Provide a trash container in the wash area.
- Use hoses with nozzles that automatically turn off when left unattended.
- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents or just water for washing.



Photo from www.helpsaveearth.org

BUILDING EXTERIORS

- Use brooms to sweep up any dirt around buildings.
- If pressure-washing a building exterior, the operator must:
 - Obtain an NPDES permit for each discharge location OR
 - Prevent wastewater from entering a storm drain or ditch
 - Block storm drains or berm the process water and allow it to evaporate, then sweep up any remaining sediments
 - Vacuum up the wastewater and dispose of in an approved drain that treats wastewater



Photo Credit: smart-clean-building-maint.com

CLEANING MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

- Always clean parts in a self-contained unit. Make sure that the parts washer is not connected to a storm drain.
- Keep solvent sink or tank covered when not in use.
- Wipe off excess grease and lubricants when performing maintenance.
- Use non-halogenated or less toxic solvents where possible.
- Use steam cleaning and pressure-washing instead of solvents. If possible, use properly maintains off-site commercial steam cleaning business.
- Recycle dirty/spent solvent through your solvent supplier.

CLEANING DUMPSTERS

- Locate dumpsters on a flat, concrete surface that does not slope or drain directly into the storm drain system.
- Do not hose out the dumpster interior. Apply absorbent over any fluids spilled in the dumpster. Absorbent and fluid mixture will usually be knocked out when the dumpster is emptied.
- Regularly inspect dumpsters and garbage bins for leaks and make any necessary repairs as soon as possible or replace them with leak-proof dumpsters by the dumpster leasing company.

WASTEWATER

- Any wastewater generated from cleaning activities cannot be discharged into waterways (including storm drains or ditches) of the state.
- Perform cleaning activities in a dedicated cleaning area where the waste water is treated in an approved manner, such as by a municipal waste water treatment plant OR
- Contract cleaning activities to commercial businesses if feasible.



Photo Credit:
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/>

QUIZ TIME

1. The washing and cleaning of maintenance equipment has the potential to

Answer: **Pollute our lakes and rivers.**

2. Waste water from pressure-washing should be either:

Answer: **vacuumed up or allowed to evaporate.**

3. What is the ideal way to clean a dumpster?

Answer: **Apply absorbent to fluids that will then be knocked out when emptied.**

4. When cleaning, always use a hose that has a

Answer: **automatic shut off valve.**



THANKS FOR HELPING
TO PROTECT
OUR WATER RESOURCES!